CONFIDENTIAL

6/20/72 - later

Dear Harold,

Sylvia just called me to make arrangements for my visit to her house at Fire Island. She let something slip which disturbed me immensely, as I'm sure it will you. I did not let her know I was disturbed. Here is exactly what happened:

Sylvia was talking about Jerry. I asked if she had heard from him recently. She said not for 2 or 3 weeks. "He mailed me a copy of that death certificate."

"You mean the Burkley one?" I asked.

"Yes,"she said. "You know it's public domain now. Anybody can have it."

"Do you know where Jerry got it?" I asked.

"Yes. Gary sent it to him."

I was quite taken back. I paused, and she said "Is that supposed to be a secret? Maybe I shouldn't have said that."

I said to her that a lot of things are supposed to be secret lately, and she replied "Yes, that's the whole trouble." That was the extent of it.

Harold, I cannot imagine you allowing Gary to do this.All sorts of implications are raised and they all trouble me.

A while ago I had a conversation with Jerry about the harm Ned could do to you. Jerry felt that Ned legally couldn't use the documents you have for PM because they were "yours." I told him that is one way Ned could be a problem. I told him that what you had gotten is now in the Archives and everyone has a right to the actual documents, that you could "own" only your use of them. I don't know if Jerry carried this any farther. He has not told me that he has a copy of the death certificate or that he has passed at least this one copy, to Sylvia.

I am telling you all of this in absolute confidence. I don't want my name associated with this in any way. I feel it is something you most certainly should know. I don't know if you plan to do anything based on what I've told you, but I would appreciate it if you tell me whatever you plan.

It strikes me more and more that people are doing a hell of a lot of things behind your back. I cannot help wonder if this will not hurt you more and rob you of more of the credit you deserve than if you pursue some of the courses you are currently taking.

Still,
Howard